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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 002102

SIPDIS

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AIDAC

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR A/S PRM DEWEY, IO A/S HOLMES, EUR/NE, EUR/WE,
SA/INS, IO/EDA SWINNICK
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, MCHAMBLISS, RTILSWORTH AND LPANASUK
USAID FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, AA/DCHA WINTER, D/DCHA/OFDA
BMCCONNELL, D/DCHA/FFP LANDIS
JOINT STAFF FOR JE/J4/J5
GENEVA FOR RMA
BRUSSELS FOR USEU
NSC FOR JDWORKEN
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE AND MLUTZ

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KUNR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KUNR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KUNR](#) [UN](#) [WFP](#) [EAID](#) [UN](#) [WFP](#) [EAID](#) [UN](#) [WFP](#) [I](#)
SUBJECT: TFIZ01: UPDATE ON FAO AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN
IRAQ

REF: (A) ROME 00409

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NOT SUITABLE FOR INTERNET POSTING.

SUMMARY

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11. (SBU) US MISSION REVIEWED WITH FAO ON MAY 6 THE STATUS OF
FAO PLANS TO RESUSCITATE ITS INTERVENTIONS IN IRAQ, AND
PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHERN GOVERNORATES. FAO INTERNATIONAL
STAFF IS BEING REDEPLOYED IN INCREASING NUMBERS - SOME 50
WILL BE POSITIONED IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR BY-MID JUNE. FAO
(AS A RESULT OF UNSC 1472 AND 1476) HAS REVIEWED SOME USD
1.5 BILLION IN CONTRACTS RELATED TO IMPORTATION OF AG-
RELATED GOODS, BUT HAS PRIORITIZED ONLY USD 81 MILLION AS
CONTRACTS "DOABLE" BEFORE THE JUNE 3 DEADLINE. IN ADDITION,
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE "13 PERCENT ACCOUNT," FAO HAS
APPROXIMATELY USD 215 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE,
SUBJECT TO AN OIP "GO-AHEAD" FROM THE UNSC. US MISSION WILL
ENDEAVOR TO HELP ADDRESS FAO-USG COMMUNICATION ISSUES AND
IDENTIFY THE PRIME ENTITIES ON THE U.S. SIDE TO SERVE AS
CONDUITS FOR FAO INFORMATION/INQUIRIES. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

12. (SBU) ON MAY 6, 2003, FODAG MISSION REPS TIM LAVELLE
(USAID), ANITA MENGHETTI (USAID), AND KATIE NISHIURA
(USDA/FAS) MET WITH LAURENT THOMAS, CHIEF, SPECIAL EMERGENCY
PROGRAMMES SERVICE, EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND REHABILITATION
DIVISION, FAO, REGARDING FAO'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION
IN IRAQ AND PROSPECTS FOR RENEWED FAO ACTIVITIES IN THAT
COUNTRY. THOMAS SAID IT WAS TIME FOR FAO TO GET "BACK IN
BUSINESS IN IRAQ" AND EXPRESSED EAGERNESS FOR HIS FIELD
STAFF TO RESUME ACTIVITIES ON THE GROUND. HE ALSO INDICATED
THAT FAO WAS BEGINNING TO PREPARE FOR HANDING OVER
RESPONSIBILITY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE NEW
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GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

13. (SBU) THOMAS PROVIDED A SNAPSHOT OF FAO'S FINANCIAL
PICTURE VIS-A-VIS IRAQ. THOMAS REPORTED THAT UNDER THE OIL-
FOR-FOOD PROGRAM, FAO (AS A RESULT OF UNSC 1472 AND LATER
1476) HAS REVIEWED SOME USD 1.5 BILLION IN CONTRACTS RELATED
TO IMPORTATION OF AG-RELATED GOODS, BUT HAS PRIORITIZED ONLY
USD 81 MILLION AS CONTRACTS "DOABLE" BEFORE THE JUNE 3
DEADLINE. THOMAS COMMENTED THAT IF THERE IS AN EXTENSION OF
UNSC 1476 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2003, THEN FAO WOULD BE ABLE TO
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF "DOABLE" CONTRACTS UP TO AROUND USD
200 MILLION IN AGRICULTURAL OFF IMPORTS. BEYOND THIS, FAO,
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE "13 PERCENT ACCOUNT," HAS
APPROXIMATELY USD 215 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE,
SUBJECT TO AN OIP "GO-AHEAD" FROM THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC). NOTE: FAO IS CONCERNED THAT THESE
FUNDS CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT ON GOING
AND PLANNED AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTIONS. AS PER FAO, MOST OF
THE LOCAL NORTHERN GOVERNORATE AUTHORITIES SHARE THIS VIEW.
END NOTE.

14. (SBU) IN SUMMARY, IT SEEMS FAO HAS AVAILABLE TO IT (OR

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ACTION AID-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	INL-00	DOTE-00
	SRPP-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OES-00	OIC-02	PER-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	SA-00
	EPAE-00	ECA-00	PRM-00	DRL-01	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/003W

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P 141417Z MAY 03
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9877
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USEU BRUSSELS 3226
USMISSION GENEVA

P 141417Z MAY 03
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO ECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9878
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY NICOSTA

P 141417Z MAY 03
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9879
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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